







OFFICE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES. }

Richmond, Va., May 19th, 1862. }

HON. J. H. REAGAN,  
*Post Master Gen'l.*

SIR :—On the 1st of this month it became necessary, in my opinion, to dismiss from the service of the Telegraph Companies L. F. Zantzinger, manager of the office at Mobile, because of the report to me by the Superintendent, of his inattention to the duties of the office—his indisposition to obey any instructions which were given to him by said Superintendent; and also because it was reported to me by our Treasurer, that he, Zantzinger, was in arrears up to the 1st of April, in the sum of eleven hundred and forty-eight dollars and thirty-one cents, and had failed to make any deposits during the months of March or April.

I also thought it necessary to dismiss from the service of the companies William Tanner, who had been acting as local Supt. of the division of the lines extending from Columbus, Geo., to New Orleans, La.; because of the great irregularity in the working of that section—the slothfulness and tardiness of the operators under his control—the impossibility of getting any information as to the condition of his lines earlier in the day than from 12 to 2 o'clock—his failure to correct these evils, after repeated remonstrances—engaging in the construction and operation of other Lines of Telegraph without the authority or consent of the officers of these companies, and his attempt to charge the Government for extra service, when his salary

had been recently increased by the Companies, and was considered sufficient recompense for all the duties assigned to him.

Mr. W Sandford of North Carolina, who had for many years been in the service of the companies of which I had the control, was sent to Mobile as manager of that office, in place of L. F Zantzinger. Mr. C. T. Campbell of Virginia, who had served many years on the same Lines, was directed to take charge as Supt. of the division of the Lines up to that time under the supervision of William Tanner. When Sandford and Campbell in obedience to instructions, arrived in Mobile and presented letters of dismissal to those gentlemen, and their authority to assume the positions, they were informed that Gen'l Bragg had taken military possession of the Lines, and had appointed William Tanner military Supt. over the Lines in Alabama and Florida, and that Mr. Zantzinger had been appointed Gen'l Supt. They positively declined to deliver money, bank books, or any other property belonging to the companies to my appointees, and refused to allow them to enter the operating department at Mobile. An order was also sent by Telegraph to Montgomery by Zantzinger, to arrest Mr. Roache, one of the operators in that office, for what cause I have not yet been informed.

As soon as I was apprised of these facts, I presented the dispatches upon the subject to yourself and Gen'l Lee. In reply to the message of Gen'l Lee of the 1st or 2nd of May, ordering the installment of Messrs. Campbell and Sandford, in the respective positions which had been assigned them, the following was received from Corinth, dated May 3rd.

“To GEN'L R. E. LEE.

“The order placing our Telegraph under the supervision of Morris, Dowell & Co., a yankee concern, will break up all operations in the South-West—

stockholders, operators, agents, all rebel. See my correspondence in War office of November or December last.

(Signed,)

BRAXTON BRAGG."

In reply to your message of the 2nd the following was received, dated Mobile 3rd.

"To JOHN H. REAGAN,

*Post Master Gen'l.*

"The reason why it is desirable to retain the old officers of the Telegraph Line, is explained by Gen'l Bragg to Gen'l Lee. Gen'l Bragg has directed me to send to Richmond a proper person to further explain the deranged state of Telegraph affairs out here.' I think with Gen'l Bragg, that meanwhile the old officers had best be retained.

(Signed,)

J. H. FORNEY,

*Brig. Gen'l C."*

These two dispatches, and also the correspondence with the War Department of December last, you permitted me to see when I last had a personal interview with you on the subject, and you at the same time expressed your determination to await the arrival of the person alluded to in Gen'l Forney's message, before taking further action in the matter.

Many days have elapsed since that interview, it is now the 19th day of the month; and I am informed that Gen'l Withers arrived in this city some days ago, charged with the duty referred to in the dispatch of Gen'l Forney to yourself.

A copy of the Mobile Tribune of the 4th inst., containing an anonymous communication in relation to this whole subject has been sent to me, and no doubt your attention has been called to it. The correspondence of Gen'l Bragg, the article in the Mobile Tribune, and your deferred action in the premises, make it my duty, however urgent the de-

mand upon my time may be, to submit for your consideration, the following facts in relation to my connection with the Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States, in vindication of myself and in justice to those I represent, and also to induce you after this exposition, to take such action as your duty to yourself, your duty to your country, and a regard for right and justice may prompt.

On the 23rd of May last, in answer to my letter of the 21st, offering to co-operate with the Government of the Confederate States in making the Lines of Telegraph under my control subserve the public good, you say, after thanking me, "I have to say that the President, without knowing the precise extent of your authority, accepts your offer, and has adopted such regulations for carrying into effect the act of Congress relating to Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States as will best secure that object, with the least possible inconvenience or injury to the Telegraph Companies; and he will do whatever he lawfully may, to protect the rights and property of all Telegraph Companies acting subordinately to, and in good faith towards the Confederate States. I will furnish you copies of the acts of Congress relating to this subject, and of the instructions adopted by the President to secure their execution; and shall be obliged by your friendly co-operation and assistance in giving them full effect to the extent of your authority," &c.

On the 24th of May last, at Montgomery, you addressed the following letter to Mr. Doweil and myself:

"I beg to request that you will furnish to the respective agents and operators on the Lines of Telegraph under your control, a copy of the instructions of this Department issued on the 22nd inst., and addressed to the Telegraph agents, operators, and others connected with the supervision and management of Telegraph Companies or Lines in the Confederate States, for the purpose of securing the

due execution of the provisions of the act of Congress of the 11th May, 1861, relating to Telegraph Lines in the said States, and also that you, or either of you, will take the necessary steps to have the oath prescribed by said act duly administered to said agents, operators, &c., and returned to this Department."

In order to carry out your instructions, it was necessary that myself or Mr. Dowell should visit in person the several offices. When I reached Charleston, I was informed that there had been a meeting of stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, in that city, and I addressed to the committee appointed by that meeting, the following letter, which is explanatory of my then relations to the Stockholders of that Company :

*Charleston Hotel, June 4th, 1861.*

"MESSRS. HENRY GOURDIN,  
HON. CHAS. MCBETH,  
and L. D. MOWRY,

*Gentlemen* :—In a recent number of the Charleston Courier, my attention was called to a notice of a meeting of a portion of the Stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, the object of which as explained by the chairman of the meeting, was, with the view of adopting or ascertaining what measures were necessary for the protection of their interests in the company under the new order of things. You, gentlemen, were appointed a committee of three to obtain all necessary information and report to an adjourned meeting of the stockholders.

On the 26th of April last, the Gen'l Supt. of the Telegraph Lines south of Washington city requested me, as a Director of the American Telegraph Company, to meet him in the city of Richmond. He stated that communication between the North and South was so interrupted, that it



was absolutely necessary to the efficiency and proper management of the Lines of Telegraph in the South, that a Southern Auditor and Treasurer should be appointed in the South; that the earnings of the Lines had been, and were being deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the American Telegraph Company, who resided in New-York, subject to his check; that in the disturbed relations between the two sections it was impossible to make reports to, or obtain drafts from the American Company; that independent of considerations of public policy, the interests of the Lines South and South-West require the appointment of an Auditor and Treasurer in the South. I was the only Director of the American Company in the South. I have been connected as President with Lines extending from Washington City, via Richmond, Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville and Chattanooga, to Atlanta in Georgia.

In the consolidation of Telegraph Lines and Companies in January, 1860, the Lines under my control were leased to the American Company. Since that consolidation the organization of these companies has been preserved and I have been elected President of them. They were organized under several separate charters.

In the state of affairs which existed at the time the Gen'l Supt. called my attention to the subject hereinbefore referred to; I requested Mr. Thos. H. Wynne of Richmond, Va., who is a large stockholder in the Washington and New Orleans Co., and also a stockholder in the American Company, to be present and to confer with the Gen'l Supt. and myself, as to the best means to be adopted for preserving and protecting the Telegraph interests in the South.

He was the only stockholder in the Washington and New-Orleans Co. with whom I was personally acquainted. Mr. Wynne is a gentleman who occupies a position of trust and responsibility in connection with the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad—his business qualification, his identity of interests, his unexceptionable character, and the place of

his nativity and residence, were reasons which induced me to urge him to accept the position of Auditor and Treasurer, he giving a bond with ample security in the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of his duties. He consented to act, and an order was issued to the managers of the Telegraph offices in the South and South-West, to deposit all monies on and after that date, (the 27th of April) to his credit, subject to his check, countersigned by myself. These proceedings were written out and signed by myself, himself and Mr. Dowell, the Gen'l Superintendent, and sent to be submitted to the American Company; that Company subsequently expressed through their President their approval.

On the 9th of May following, I was informed by Telegraph by the Gen'l Supt., that it was imperatively necessary in order to enforce the rules and secure efficiency and fidelity in the operations of the Lines, that I should co-operate with him as President, not only of the Lines running South-West, but should assume the duties of President of the Washington and New-Orleans Lines. I hesitated to undertake responsibilities under such circumstances, and consulted the stockholders residing in Lynchburg, the only parties accessible to me and identified in interest with myself and other stockholders in the South. I was urged to do so by them, and they united in a dispatch to the Governor of Virginia setting forth the facts of the case; who ordered me to resign my position in the volunteer service of the State. On the 10th of May, I received a dispatch from the President of the American Company requesting me to meet him at Washington. In the interview had with him on the 11th, in company with Mr. J. R. Dowell, the Gen'l Supt., I related the events of the few previous days touching the additional duties I had assumed in connection with Telegraph interests in the South; I stated also to him that in the existing state of relations between the North and South, the Lines must necessarily be worked distinctly and

separately in the two sections, and that it was impossible to foresee what might be the relations of parties in the future; he concurred with me in these opinions.

The day following, on my way home, I was informed by Telegraph that my immediate presence in Montgomery was necessary to protect the interests of the Telegraph. Without stopping at my home, I went to the seat of Government of the Confederate States, I waited upon the authorities there, and expressed my willingness to co-operate with them in any measures which it might be necessary to adopt to make the Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States subserve the public good; I found them disposed to adopt such regulations only to carry into effect the act of Congress relating to Lines in the Confederate States, as would best secure that object with the least possible inconvenience or injury to the Telegraph Companies, and was assured that they would do whatever they lawfully could, to protect the rights and property of all Telegraph Companies acting subordinately to, and in good faith towards the Confederate States. They also accepted the tender of my services to institute enquiries as to the means of procuring the manufacture of wire for such Military Lines of Telegraph as may be wanted by the Government, and also for the manufacture of insulators of glass, and urged the importance of ascertaining where these supplies could be had at the earliest day practicable.

The earnings of the Southern Lines have been, since April 27th, and will continue to be, deposited to the credit of Mr Thos. H. Wyne, Treasurer, at Richmond, Va.

I design to pay punctually and promptly to the stockholders, both of the Washington and New-Orleans Company, and the stockholders of the South-Western Lines, their rents when due them, and the surplus after paying all necessary expenses will be retained to the credit of the Treasurer, subject to the order of the parties legally and rightfully entitled to it.

In my interview with you to day you desired me to communicate these facts and events. I have endeavored to do so plainly, briefly, and as succinctly as I could. You are thus made acquainted with my connection with your interests and the interests of others up to this date.

The action of the State of Virginia, the contemplated action of other States, and the apprehended action of the Confederate States, and the proper discipline and enforcement of the rules and regulations prescribed for Telegraphic agents and operators, made it absolutely necessary, that some one should act promptly to protect the interests of stockholders and secure promptness and efficiency in the Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States. This, I have endeavored to do, and trust that I will have the approval of the stockholders of the Washington and New-Orleans Company, in my efforts in this behalf.

I cannot conclude this communication without urging upon you the importance of harmony and united action of Telegraph Companies in the South in these times of trial and danger, when the wants and interests of individuals and companies, should be made subordinate to the general and universal desire to promote the public good and national safety

Very Respectfully, Your ob't ser't

WM. S. MORRIS, *Pres't*

(Copy.)

*Southern Telegraph Companies.*

A short time after I left Charleston, a copy of the Charleston Courier was sent to me with the following publication of proceedings :

WASHINGTON AND NEW ORLEANS TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

A meeting of the Stockholders, in this state, of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, was held at the bank of Charleston yesterday, when the Hon. Charles Macbeth, Mayor, was called to the chair, and L. D. Mowry requested to act as Secretary

Mr. Henry Gourdin, Chairman of a committee appointed at a previous meeting, submitted the following report which was unanimously adopted :

The committee appointed at a meeting of the Stockholders of this state in the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, report respectfully : That within a day or two after the adjournment of said meeting, they were waited upon by Dr W S. Morris of Richmond, and Mr. J R. Dowell, the former President of certain companies known as the South-western lines of Telegraph, extending from Washington through Knoxville and Chattanooga to Atlanta, and now acting President of the Washington and New Orleans Company, and the latter gentleman Superintendent of the several lines south of Washington under the appointment of the American Telegraph Company, to which company the several lines south of Washington had been leased.

These gentlemen state that, being in Augusta, on their way from Montgomery to Richmond, their attention was called to a notice in the Charleston papers of a meeting of a portion of the Stockholders in the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, and that ignorant of the purposes of the meeting, and desiring themselves to promote harmony and unity of action among the stockholders in the several Southern States, as well as between the several Southern and Western lines, they had deemed it best to

come at once to Charleston to explain in person their connection with the company, and what they had done to protect the interests of the stockholders in the several companies, and to insure the faithful and efficient working of the lines.

Dr. Morris states, that on the 26th day of April last, Mr. Dowell, for many years the General Superintendent of all the Telegraph Lines south and south-west of Washington, requested him, as a Director in the American Telegraph Company, to meet him in the city of Richmond; that at that meeting Mr. Dowell informed him that communication between the North and the South had become so interrupted, that the appointment of a Southern Auditor and Treasurer became absolutely necessary to the efficiency, safety, and proper management of the Lines of Telegraph in the South; that the earnings of the Southern Lines had been, and were still being deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the American Telegraph Company, who resided in New York, subject to his check; that in the disturbed relations between the two sections it was impossible to make reports to, or obtain drafts from the American Telegraph Company, and that independent of considerations of public feeling, the interests of the Lines South and South-West required the immediate appointment of an Auditor and Treasurer in the South.

Dr. Morris further states, that he was the only Director of the American Telegraph Company at the time in the South; that he had been connected as President with Lines of Telegraph extending from Washington City, by way of Richmond, Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville and Chattanooga, to Atlanta; that they were organized under several separate charters, and that in the consolidation of the several Companies in 1860, these being under his control, and known as the South-western Lines, were leased, as were the Washington and New Orleans Company, to the American Telegraph Company; but that the organization of these

companies had been preserved, and that he was still the President of them.

Dr. Morris further says, that when called on by the Superintendent to meet him in Richmond, he requested Mr. Thos. H. Wynne of Richmond, a large stockholder in both the Washington and New Orleans and the American Telegraph Companies, to be present and confer with the Gen'l Superintendent and himself, as to the best means to be adopted to preserve and protect the Telegraph interests of the South.

Mr. Wynne was the only stockholder in the Washington and New Orleans Company with whom he was acquainted, and with whom, in the emergency that existed, it was possible to consult, and that the position of trust and responsibility occupied by him in connection with the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad—his business qualifications, identity of interests, unexceptionable character, and place of nativity and residence, were reasons which induced him to urge Mr. Wynne to accept the place of Auditor and Treasurer, he giving a bond of fifty thousand dollars, with security, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

Mr. Wynne having consented to act, orders were issued to the managers of Telegraph offices in the South and South-West, to deposit all monies on and after the 27th April) to his credit, subject to his check, countersigned by him, Dr. Morris.

These proceedings, Dr. Morris states, were written out, and signed by himself, the General Superintendent, Mr. Dowell, and Mr. Wynne, and having been sent to be submitted to the American Telegraph Company, that Company subsequently, through its President, expressed its approval.

On the 9th of May following, some difficulties having occurred in the management, the General Superintendent, again addressed a dispatch to Dr. Morris, stating, that to enforce the rules and regulations, and secure efficiency and fidelity in the operations of the Lines, it was imperatively

necessary that Dr. Morris should co-operate with him, not only as President of the Lines running South-West, but that he should assume the duties of President of the Washington and New Orleans Company also. Hesitating, Dr. Morris says, to assume duties and responsibilities under such circumstances, he consulted the stockholders residing in Lynchburg, the only parties accessible to him at the time, and identified with himself and other stockholders in the South, and that urged by them to comply with the suggestions of the General Superintendent, they united in a dispatch to the Governor of Virginia setting forth the facts of the case, and that in view of them the Governor ordered him to resign his position in the volunteer service of the State.

Dr. Morris further states, that on the 10th of May, he received a dispatch from the President of the American Telegraph Company, requesting him to meet him at Washington city, and that in the interview had with him on that occasion, the 11th May, in company with the Gen'l Supt., he, Dr. Morris, related the events of the few previous days touching the additional duties he had assumed in connection with the Telegraph interests in the South; stating also that in the existing relations between the North and the South, the Lines must necessarily be worked separately in the two sections, and that it was impossible to foresee what would be the relations of parties in the future; in all of which opinions he concurred.

Dr. Morris further says, that on the day following, the 12th May, on his way home, he was informed by telegram that his immediate presence was necessary in Montgomery to protect the interests of the Telegraph Companies; that he went on forthwith to Montgomery, waited on the authorities, expressed his willingness to co-operate in any measures that might be deemed necessary to make the Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States subserve the public interests, and that he found a disposition to adopt such



regulations only as were necessary to carry into effect the act of Congress relating to Telegraph Lines in the Confederate States, and to secure that object with the least possible inconvenience and injury to the Companies.

Dr Morris says also, that assurances were given him that every thing that could lawfully be done to protect the rights and property of all the companies acting subordnately to, and in good faith towards the Confederate States would be done.

The earnings of the Southern Lines, Dr. Morris says, have, since the 27th April, been, and will continue to be, deposited to the credit of Thomas H. Wynne, Treasurer, at Richmond, Va., and that he designs, after paying the current expenses incident to the working of the Lines, to pay to the stockholders of both Lines—the Washington and New Orleans, and the South-Western Lines—the rents or dividends, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, when due them, and that the surplus, if any, will be retained, subject to the order of the parties legally and rightfully entitled to it.

Dr. Morris concludes by stating, that the action of the state of Virginia, the contemplated action of other states, the apprehended action of the Confederate States, and the proper discipline and enforcement of the rules and regulations for Telegraphic agents and operators made it absolutely necessary that some one should act promptly to protect the interests of stockholders and secure promptness and efficiency in the lines in the Confederate States. This he says he has endeavored to do, and trusts that he will have the approval of the stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Company in his efforts in this behalf. Finally he urges the importance of harmonious and united action of Telegraph Companies in the Confederate States in these times of trial and danger, when the wants of companies and individuals should be made subordinate to the general and universal desire to promote the public good and safety.

From the foregoing statement of Dr. Morris, and the General Superintendent, Mr Dowell, it would seem that these gentlemen, with Mr. Wynne, have already accomplished much that was intended to have been done by your meeting. The management of your company is in southern hands, the property has been made secure to Southern stockholders, the proceeds are kept in the South in the hands of a Southern Treasurer, and no longer remitted to a Northern Treasurer, and the line is effectually worked in accordance with the views and wishes of the Confederate authorities.

Dr. Morris has been unknown to your committee up to this time ; but he possesses great Telegraphic experience, and he has letters from parties and to parties of high character and respectability, and he has exhibited other evidences equally strong of his claims to their confidence.

Mr. Dowell has been many years General Superintendent of the lines of Telegraph south and south-west of Washington, and has the reputation of being an active and efficient officer.

Mr. Wynne is known to many of our citizens as a gentleman of high character and respectability. They are all Virginians by birth, and your committee have every confidence that they will not abuse, but faithfully discharge the trusts which they have assumed. Nevertheless, your committee are of opinion that the company should resume the management of its own affairs. The gentlemen now having it in charge appear to regard themselves as representing to some extent the American Telegraph Company, as well as the lines South, and one of them, the General Superintendent, holds his place under the appointment of that company, when the war by common opinion is regarded as having put an end to the lease which alone gave it control in the management of the Southern lines. However, satisfied therefore, as your committee are, with the course taken by them in the emergency which existed to

secure the Southern lines from Northern control, and of the confidence that may be reposed in them, they are of opinion that these gentlemen should hold their places as officers of the Southern Companies exclusively, and be responsible to them only. Many stockholders are not willing now to receive their dividends as they have usually done, because they apprehend that by so doing they may commit themselves to the recognition of the continued existence of a lease which they regard as having terminated. It is manifest, also, that if the lease has ceased to exist, or if it is suspended only by the war, the company should return to the requirements of the charter, to have its annual meetings and elections of officers, who shall report annually on the business and condition of the company, and that its funds, which have been or may be received, shall be in the hands of its own appointed officers, to be appointed and used as may be judged best by the company.

Your committee are informed, that the receipts of the Washington and New-Orleans and the South-Western Lines are kept in bank in mass. This they consider objectionable, as some after confusion may be the consequence. The reasons assigned by Dr Morris, however, are entitled to much weight in the present political condition of the country, and as he says, that "the accounts are so kept that it will be easy to make a settlement hereafter, as now, as soon as the principles of apportionment are settled," much of the objection to the mingling of the receipts of the several companies at this time is removed. Your committee are of opinion, at the same time, that the mode of keeping the deposits in the banks, in the several cities where deposits are made, should be in some way changed. They are now kept in the name of "Thos. H. Wynne, Treasurer of the Southern Telegraph Companies." Dr. Morris and Mr. Wynne explained their reasons for so doing. The moneys received on account of several Companies cannot be kept in the name of any one of them, but it seems to your commit-

tee that in case of the death of the Treasurer, difficulties might arise in the appointment of his successor, and consequent embarrassment and delay in commanding the funds on deposit in banks.

The Washington and New-Orleans Company, can appoint only its own Treasurer, in its own name, and so with the other companies interested, and unless there be some understanding among them, by which a general Treasurer can be appointed under the same caption, the banks might not feel themselves at liberty to pay the checks drawn without some legal sanction or guarantee.

Your committee have already referred to the character of the gentlemen in charge of the company. There exists no reason to question their motives or their integrity. Mr. Dowell is entitled to the thanks of the stockholders, for the early move made by him to rescue their funds and the control of the Company from Northern hands, and they are indebted also to Dr. Morris and Mr. Wynne, for the prompt aid rendered by them to Mr. Dowell in the emergency which existed; still the positions held by these gentlemen, cannot be satisfactory either to them or to this Company.

Mr. Wynne holds the place of Auditor and Treasurer, at the request of, and by the appointment of Dr. Morris—and Dr. Morris holds the place of President, at the request of Mr. Dowell, an officer appointed not by any of the Southern Companies, but by the American Telegraph Company. Mr. Wynne's salary is fixed by agreement with Dr. Morris at \$1500, with a clerk at \$600; but Mr. Wynne says he does not feel free to draw any of it until the authority is more definite, while Dr. Morris is without a salary, and can receive none unless he fixes it for himself.

To correct so anomalous a condition of things, the company should resume the management of its own affairs, and for that purpose your committee recommend that there should be an early meeting of the stockholders at some central point—Mr. Wynne correctly says, “Although the

present mode of organization affords no ground of objection among our Southern friends, yet it is evident that no plan of government can be properly authorized which has not the sanction of the stockholders; and he adds, that the meeting of which you speak as necessary, I think is indispensable."

It should be clearly understood that there is not the smallest disposition to produce differences between this and other Southern Lines; on the contrary, measures should be taken at the proposed meeting, to invite the co-operation and views of other Southern and South-Western Companies, so as to maintain the good understanding and harmony that now so happily exists among them.

(Signed,)

H. GOURDIN,  
CHA. MACBETH, *Mayor*.  
L. D. MOWRY

Mr Henry Gourdin offered the following resolutions, which being seconded were adopted

*Resolved*, That the report of the committee be accepted, and that to carry out the recommendations contained in it, the shareholders of the Company in the Confederate States be requested to meet on the 27th day of August next, in the City of Augusta, and that notice of the same be published in such journals in this and other States as the committee may deem expedient.

*Resolved*, That the chairman of this meeting be requested to appoint two gentlemen to represent the shareholders of this City and State at the proposed meeting, to whom proxies may be sent.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Dowell, Dr W S. Morris and Mr. Thomas H. Wynne, are entitled to the thanks of this Company for their prompt conduct in rescuing the management of the Company and its funds from Northern control, under the circumstances as stated by them, and that the same be tendered to them as an expression of the approval of their conduct by this meeting.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to Dr. Morris, Mr Dowell and Mr Wynne, with a request

that they will attend the proposed meeting of stockholders, with full reports of the condition and business of the Company for the information of stockholders.

The chair under the second resolution, appointed Messrs. Henry Gourdin and L. D. Mowry, as delegates to the meeting to be held at Augusta.

On motion the report and proceedings were ordered to be published, and the meeting then adjourned.

CHARLES MACBETH, *Chairman.*

L. D. MOWRY, *Secretary.*

From the foregoing proceedings it will be seen that this meeting of the stockholders of the Washington and New-Orleans Company, heartily approved of the course pursued by myself and Mr Dowell, and recommended a general meeting of the stockholders of the Company, to be held on the 27th of August, 1861, at Augusta.

On the 23rd of August, 1861, a meeting of the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company residing in the Confederate States, was held at Richmond, and at this meeting, a committee was appointed to examine the reports of William S. Morris, J. R. Dowell, Superintendent, and Thomas H. Wynne, Treasurer, and report for the consideration of the meeting, such resolutions as should in their opinion be adopted.

At an adjourned meeting held the same day, the committee appointed to examine and report to this meeting upon the reports of the President, Superintendent and Treasurer, presented and read the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted.

Whereas, the altered relations between the States comprising the late United States of America, arising from the existence of war among them, make it proper that the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company, residing in the Confederate States, should convene and take action

together, upon their affairs, and maintain their rights, and discharge their duties, as the same are effected by the legal consequences of such war.

1st. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this meeting, it is the duty of the stockholders of said Company, residing in the Confederate States, to take immediate possession, and complete control of the Lines of Telegraph located in said States, recently owned by or leased to the said Company, and to supervise and manage the same so as to promote the public safety of the South, and protect their individual and social interests.

2nd. That in thus assuming the entire control of the property and rights, recently shared and managed by their associates in the American Telegraph Company, the stockholders comprising this meeting, representing, as they do, nearly every share of stock held by Southern stockholders in the American Telegraph Company, deem it but just to all parties residing in the Confederate States, with whom the said Company have contracts of any kind, to declare their willingness and purpose in good faith, to comply with all such contracts on their part, and that they will expect all such parties, in like manner to comply with all such contracts on their part.

3d. That, in assuming the position indicated in the first resolution, the stockholders composing this meeting, disclaim all wish or intention to manage the affairs of this Company so as to deprive any one, their late associates included, of any of their legal rights in the premises, but they assume the control and management mentioned, impelled by a sense of duty to the public and themselves.

4th. That we approve of the management of the Southern Telegraph Lines as set forth in the report of Dr. Morris, and Messrs. Wynne and Dowell, and that the thanks of the stockholders are due to these gentlemen, for the fidelity with which they have discharged their respective duties.

5th. That an executive committee composed of three stockholders, of whom the President elected by this meeting shall *ex-officio* be one, be appointed, who shall manage the affairs of the Southern Lines of Telegraph, recently held or leased by the American Telegraph Company in the Southern States. That said committee have full authority

in the recess between this time and the next meeting of the stockholders, to represent in all things, and protect the interest of the said stockholders, and that the recommendations contained in the reports of Dr. Morris and Mr. Dowell, be referred to said committee for their consideration and action.

6th. That a dividend of six per cent. is hereby declared, that is, three per cent. as of the first of May last, and three per cent. as of the first of August inst., which the Treasurer is directed to pay on the first of September next to the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company, residing in the Confederate States, as they appear on the list given on the 30th May last by the Secretary of said Company

7th. That Wm. S. Morris is hereby appointed President of this Company, and that his salary shall be five thousand dollars per annum. That Thos. H. Wynne is hereby appointed Treasurer, and that his salary shall be fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

8th. That Charles Scott and Robt. W. Crenshaw, are hereby appointed members of the executive committee provided for in the fifth resolution.

9th. That the reports of the President, Treasurer, and Gen'l Superintendent be spread upon the record of this meeting, and filed among the papers of the company

10th. That when this meeting adjourn it adjourn to meet at Richmond on the 20th day of September next, unless sooner convened by the Executive Committee.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

CHAS. SCOTT, *Chairman*.

R. W. CRENSHAW, *Secretary*.

On the 27th day of August, a meeting of the stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Company was held in Augusta, a majority of Southern stock being represented. Upon motion of R. R. Cuyler, Esqr., Elam Alexander, Esq., was called to the chair, and Mr. J. C. Butler requested to act as Secretary.

The Chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting.

Thomas H. Wynne, acting Treasurer of the company in connection with other Southern lines, made a verbal state-



ment of the financial condition of the company, which was received as information.

Dr William S. Morris, acting President, explained his connection with the company, as set forth in the report of the committee at the meeting of stockholders, in Charleston, and after a detailed statement of the operations of the line, and the condition of the property, he read the following copy of resolutions which had been adopted at a meeting of the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company in the Confederate States, at Richmond, Va., on the 23rd inst, viz: [See proceedings of the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company residing in the Confederate States at their meeting held in Richmond on the 23rd August, pp. 19, 20 and 21.]

The following resolutions were then offered by R. R. Cuyler, Esq., and unanimously passed :

1st. *Resolved*, That this meeting cannot in any way acquiesce in the action and resolutions of Southern stockholders in the American Telegraph company as shown in their action at Richmond on 23rd inst.

2nd. *Resolved*, That the stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Company have a sincere desire, if possible, to harmonize the interests of all the lines of Telegraph within the Southern Confederacy.

3rd. *Resolved*, That a committee of three, to be named by the Chair, be appointed at his leisure to confer with the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company in Richmond, on the 20th proximo, and with all others interested, with a view to the amalgamation of all the lines in the Confederate States, provided such amalgamation can be consummated during a period not exceeding two years from the date of agreement.

Wm. B. Johnson, Esq., presented the following resolution which was adopted ;

*Resolved*. That Dr W S. Morris, Mr. T. H. Wynne, and Mr. J. R. Dowell, in rescuing the management of the Washington and New Orleans Company from Northern control, are entitled to the thanks of this meeting, and that

a copy of this resolution be sent to each of them, as an expression of the approval of the meeting, and its confidence in them.

The meeting then adjourned to such time as the committee at Richmond shall be ready to report—they being authorized to give notice of the same.

ELAM ALEXANDER, *Chairman.*

J C. BUTLER, *Secretary.*

It will be seen that this meeting authorized the appointment of a committee of three, to confer with the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company in Richmond, on the 20th September.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company, residing in the Confederate States, held pursuant to adjournment, on the 20th September, 1861, at the American Hotel in the City of Richmond.

On motion, John M. Speed was elected Chairman, and R. W. Crenshaw, Secretary.

Dr. Morris reported to the meeting the proceedings of the stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, had at a meeting of that Company held in the City of Augusta, Georgia, on the 27th day of August, 1861, and on his motion, it was

*Resolved*, That a committee of two be appointed, to confer with the committee appointed by the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, at their meeting held in Augusta, Georgia, on the 27th of August, 1861, which committee is now in this City, and report to this meeting.

Messrs. R. W. Crenshaw and Thomas H. Wynne were appointed by the chair; and, on motion, the chairman of the meeting was added to the committee.

The meeting then adjourned until 8 o'clock P. M. the 21st, in order to afford time and opportunity for conference of the committees.

At a meeting held pursuant to adjournment at 8 o'clock P. M. Sept 21st, 1861, John M. Speed presiding, the com-

mittee appointed to confer with the committee of the Washington and New Orleans Stockholders made the following report

The committee appointed to confer with the representatives of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company report, that a conference was held with Messrs. W. D. Porter, H. Gourdin, and L. D. Mowry, appointed by resolution adopted at the meeting held in Augusta, Georgia, on the 27th day of August, 1861, and after discussing various plans of action for amalgamating the different companies during which time the opinions of Messrs. Porter and Speed on the legality of the different modes of action proposed were discussed, it was finally decided that it was inexpedient at present to take any action upon the subject, but it was advised that the former stockholders in the American Telegraph Company residing in the Confederate States, should obtain a charter under the name and title of the "Confederated Telegraph Company," in all the states in the Confederacy, and as soon as practicable thereafter, the stockholders in all the Telegraph Companies in these States, should become stockholders in the same, by transfer of stocks upon an equitable basis.

(Signed,)

R. W. CRENSHAW,  
JOHN M. SPEED,  
THOS. H. WYNNE.

On motion, the report of the committee was received and approved, and it was

*Resolved*, That Dr. Morris and R. W. Crenshaw be appointed a committee to have prepared a charter for the Confederate Telegraph Company, and to attend to the application for, and obtaining the same from the proper court in the City of Richmond, and that they be authorized to employ the necessary legal assistance.

In pursuance of these instructions, I have obtained a charter in the State of Virginia, and presented it for ap-

proval to the stockholders; and the company has been organized.

The stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Company, were notified to attend a meeting at Macon, on the — day of November, at which the committee proposed to report, but I have received no notice of their having met.

I have seen a publication in the Macon papers, of a meeting of stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph Company, purporting to have been held at Macon on the 16th day of January, 1862; at this meeting it is stated, the report of their committee was presented *but not read*. How much stock was represented in the meeting, I do not know. Several of the largest stockholders in that Company, have informed me that they had no notice of the meeting. Neither the President or Secretary of that meeting have furnished me any statement of their proceedings.

From the foregoing history of proceedings, had by the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company residing in the Confederate States, and the stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans Company, one of the Lines leased by the American Company, it is seen that they have endorsed my conduct in all the conventions of stockholders; and they have individually approved of it by receiving the rents, which have been paid to them punctually when due. I have carried out their suggestion in obtaining a charter for the purpose of re-organizing and consolidating the several Companies, but the unsettled state of the country, has prevented, up to this time, the completion of the plan proposed by the joint committees.

I deem it unnecessary to say anything in this already too much extended communication in relation to the Line which the Government ordered me to build between Mobile and Meridian, alluded to in General Bragg's letter to the Secretary of War, in December last, which I was prevented from completing by the Directors of the Mobile and Ohio

Rail Road Company obtaining an injunction, and General Withers refusing to carry out the instructions of the War Department. You are familiar with all the facts in relation to that subject, and I trust my course in that behalf needs no vindication.

Gen'l Bragg has appointed L. F. Zantzinger of Mobile Military Supervisor of the Lines in Alabama and Florida, and W. Tanner, Superintendent of those Lines, and they refuse to recognize my authority, or to allow the officers I have appointed to take charge of the affairs, and the money is kept by these appointees of his.

Mobile is now a terminal office of the Lines, and the receipts are large, as messages intended for all points on the Lines West and North are received there. If the funds are allowed to be kept by L. F. Zantzinger, who is now in arrears in his accounts up to the 1st day of March \$1,164, and is not responsible to any one, the finances will soon be in such condition as to make it impossible to pay to the leased Lines, their rents, or to defray the expenses of operating the Lines, and chaos, confusion and inefficiency, will result. Since the commencement of this revolution, although all the supplies necessary to carry on the operations of the Lines have advanced several hundred per cent., and in some instances several thousand per cent., and the salaries of all employees have had to be advanced, to meet the greatly increased cost of living; I have up to this time made no change in the tariff of rates on the Lines, and have tried earnestly to make the Telegraph useful and efficient to the Government and the public. I have up to this time, succeeded in paying to the stockholders of the leased Lines their rents, and to the stockholders of the American Telegraph Company residing in the Confederate States, their dividends; but this I cannot expect to do, if irresponsible parties, by virtue of authority derived from Gen'l Bragg, who, for what reason I know not, styles me, and those who are connected with me, "a yankee concern,"

takes Military possession of all the Lines in Alabama and Florida, and orders our Lines to be taken down, and materials used to build others.

Our only remedy is with the Government, which, up to this time, has treated me and the interests I represent with fairness and justice, and in their decision I confide, in the belief that you will do whatever you lawfully may, to protect the rights and property of all Telegraph Companies acting subordinately to, and in good faith towards the Confederate States.

Respectfully, Your ob't serv't.

WM. S. MORRIS,  
*Pres't Southern Telug. Co's.*



